REMARKS

ON SOME LATE

ANIMADVERSIONS

OF A

LICENTIATE

UPON THE

CONSTITUTION OF *PHYSICK:*

intended to correct the

MISAPPREHENSIONS OF THAT AUTHOR

with Regard to the

COLLEGE OF *PHYSICIANS*

AND THE

ENGLISH *UNIVERSITIES*

By a CANTAB

Αδικεῖν μὲν οὐ πειρασόμεθα συν τοις θεοις αμυνασθαι.

ΞΕΝΟΦ. ΑΝΑΒ. Β.

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TO

THE PARLIAMENT

OF

GREAT BRITAIN,

MY LORDS and GENTLEMEN,

SINCE it is become the Fashion of the Times to address YOUR LORDSHIPS and YOUR HONOURS, upon every Matter that is the Object either of Ambition or of Interest; you will not perhaps be more surpriz'd at the Intrusion of LICENTIATES, or CANTABS, than of WEAVERS, or of TAYLORS.

It seems "the Constitution of Physic in this "Kingdom is a very bad one," † and like that of the State is to be reform'd by abolishing all Distinction and Subordination: and that the Power of examining Physicians, lodg'd with the Magistrates of the College, is a Grievance as intolerable to some, as the civil Power is to others -- in the hands of a RUSSEL or a PONTON, a CAPEL or an HARLEY. It seems, that NOW "the "Constitution of the times and Complexion of the

† see Dedication to Animadversions

" the Age oblige us to diſregard the Precepts, " reverſe the Decrees, and repeal the Laws of " our fore fathers " and as " great Revolutions " from a fortuitous Concurrance of Circumſtances " have often been the ultimate Effect of a very tri- " vial firſt Cauſe; " * What Revolution can be beyond our Expectation NOW? when Circumſtances concur ſo fortuitouſly, --- when the Spirit of LEVELLING has inſpir'd almoſt all orders of Men, --- and more eſpecially, when YOU are call'd upon by a Perſonage, whoſe " Fortune " the public has been pleas'd to render conſider- " able, "-- ‡ and of ſuch Importance that " the Re- " volutions of Kingdoms are beneath his Notice! "||

A Cantab, MY LORDS and GENTLEMEN, of no conſiderable fortune might tremble to approach you after an Addreſs ſo important, did not the " Complexion of the times " make him audacious: and as that Addreſs was written " for your Infor- " mation, without any Intention to warp your Judgement, " -- § Motives not leſs innocent may, it is hop'd, plead with YOUR LORDSHIPS, and YOUR HONOURS, in Excuſe for the following Remarks, and entitle the Remarker even to the Thanks of that Perſonage, if they ſhoud have the good fortune to promote his " Intention not to warp your Judgement, " by pointing out ſome ſmall Deviations in his Information.

* Animad. p. 1, ‡ Ib. p. 29, || Ib. p. 2, § Dedicat.

REMARKS
ON
ANIMADVERSIONS, &c.

I SHALL not detain the Reader with any Conjectures relative to the *remote* Cauſe, whether trivial or important, from which, aided by "*the Complexion of the* "*times*", ſome mighty Revolution may be expected by the Author of the *Animadverſions*: it is not the Revolution of a State by which he is protected, and to his great Mortification, *govern'd*. The proximate cauſe however of the Pamphlet, ſeems to be VANITY, ſupported by the *conſiderable fortune* which the College have permitted a foreign graduate to make, and for which, as is not unuſual with foreign Politeneſs, he very gratefully abuſes the College, the Univerſities, and the Laws of the Country to which he

 owes

owes it. Hence the burthen of ſubordination is become ſo "*flagrant and intolerable.*" Hence the bluſhing retroſpection of his own meanneſs, in ſubmitting to the examination of thoſe "*who poſſeſſed no ſhadow of claim to ſuperiority,*"‖ (except what the LAW gives them over all Graduates, even of their own Univerſities)--Hence theſe pompous Animadverſions, written with a ſpirit ſuited to "*the complexion of the times*",--that ſpirit of decency and liberty which animated the Aſſailants in *Warwick-lane*, and the *Borough of Southwark.*

The Conſtitution of Phyſic is ſaid to be *a very bad one*, becauſe the College of Phyſicians in London, like true-born Engliſhmen, exclude from the Government of it, all Foreigners and foreign Graduates:--an excluſion which *Engliſh* Courts of Law have hitherto juſtified. The College are, it is true, partial to the Univerſities of their own country: where the ſtudents are obliged to have ſome learning---where they are taught to examine every ſubject of their ſtudy, without regard to any authority, not ſupported by ſtrict evidence of accurate experiment, and to receive no dictates as infallible from any Profeſſor whatſoever:--where they are confined to ſome years ſtudy and ſome years ſearch of improvement in other places,--and where they cannot be Doctors till eleven years are expired.

A riotous Aſſault and the Court of King's Bench not anſwering the deſir'd Purpoſe, the College of Phyſicians and the Engliſh Univerſities, where the great Expence of Money and Time excludes Perſons without Literature from the

‖ Animadverſions, page 29.

the Profeſſion, are to be the ſubject of Abuſe: of which (excluſive of reprinted Laws) the Pamphlet upon which I am about to make ſome Remarks, principally conſiſts.

For example---page 5, and 6

"*With regard to the Univerſities of Oxford, Cambridge,* "*and Dublin, they are at preſent by no means Schools of Phy-* "*ſic---the Lectures in every Branch of Medicine are infinitely* "*too ſhort and ſuperficial, and delivered by perſons, tho' per-* "*haps of ſufficient Erudition, yet utterly incapable of illuſtra-* "*ting their Theory by practical Obſervation. Many of the* "*Eſſentials are not taught at all. No Patients, no clinical* "*Lectures, which are the ſine qua non of a medical Educa-* "*tion.*"

Would not any Perſon who had never been an Academic, conclude, from the confidence of this paragraph, that the Author had ſtudied at one or all of theſe Univerſities? If not, "*Who can read this Declaration without being ſtruck with* "*its extreme arrogance and ignorance?*" (*)

What are theſe *Eſſentials not taught at all?* Lectures in *every Branch* of Medicine there are, it ſeems, tho' infinitely too ſhort and ſuperficial, and delivered by *incapable* men of *Erudition*.--The Eſſentials therefore untaught muſt be in no branch of medicine. What a ſhame that Foreigners are not appointed to read lectures there, leſs ſhort and more profound! "*No patients*,"--happy places theſe! doubly happy that Foreign Doctors are not neceſſary to preſerve their ſalubrity! "*No clinical Lectures, which are the ſine qua* "*non*"---How ſhould there be clinical Lectures where the

profeſſors

(*) Animadverſions, page 11.

professors have no patients? *Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin* "*are by no means schools of physic* AT PRESENT"--but clinical lectures the grand arcanum with which our author is so inflated, "the *sine qua non of medical Education*," if read by foreigners, would make them so--not read by "*men of* "*Erudition, but utterly incapable of illustrating their theory* "*by practical observation.*" Perhaps the clinical lectures of that foreign professor only, who had the honour of having our author for his disciple, will do. In such case I see no remedy that can "*save the Universities from total neglect and ruin*," † but an interposition of the legislature, and the appointment of our author to read clinical lectures successively in all the three.---Perhaps Dr. W---s, who is said to have read Lectures some time ago in London (where neither Patients or Doctors are wanting)--who perhaps still continues to read to *papils without erudition*, and who must possess this arcanum of our author, may be prevailed on to be his *locum-tenens*, upon an emergency. Thus the Students of our Universities, without waste of eleven years, will possess, as GIL BLAS did, in less than so many months, the root, the marrow, the essence and quintessence, "*the essential and sine qua* "*non of medical education.*" If to these we can but add a few Foreigners to read Theological Lectures, our Universities may then hope to be upon Par with those of the Continent, or of *Scotland*, and our Divines as well as Physicians, be in equal Esteem for their Abilities, which have hitherto been held cheap in the opinion of all the world.

But

† Animadversions, page 8.

But to be ſerious: although aſſertions ſo illiberal, and ſo ſcandalouſly falſe, deſerve not ſerious treatment. Is our author very ſure of the incapacity of the Profeſſors *at preſent* in theſe univerſities? Some of them, I venture to ſay, have travelled both to Leyden, Edinburgh, and Paris, and have attended *clinical Lectures.* Moſt of them have *patients*, and had them at Cambridge, even before the Hoſpital was finiſhed,--and it may be preſumed, are as capable *of illuſtrating theory by practical obſervation*, as our author himſelf; though they be perſons of *erudition.* When our author puts his name to his information, their names may be given him.

Page 6. "*So far from confining our medical ſtudents to any* "*particular mode of education in our country*," &c.

What can the author mean by this inſinuation of confinement to mode? Would he have the Univerſities admit as ſtudents perſons who have never been at ſchool? Our author was not educated at an Engliſh Univerſity, therefore he is acquainted with confinements, of which perſons who have been ſo, are totally ignorant. Medical ſtudents are *not* obliged to attend any lectures which do not tend to the accompliſhment of a Phyſician. Had our author ſaid to what the medical ſtudents there are really confined, the Purpoſe of his declamatory Information had been ſpoiled, and the partiality and patriotiſm of the College of Phyſicians appeared blameleſs, not to ſay praiſe-worthy: as the ſtatutes of confinement tend more directly to ſecure the ſafety of the people, than thoſe of any other Univerſities in Europe, not governed by the ſame.

The Students in Engliſh Univerſities are confined, it is true, to have a competent knowledge of the dead languages before their admiſſion:--they are confined to be reſident a few years--(not weeks): yet not more than are neceſſary to make them tolerable Logicians and Philoſophers, Anatomiſts, Chemiſts and Botaniſts. They then may, and moſt of them do, travel to other Univerſities: and whether they do, or do not leave England, all of them, ſooner or later, are Pupils in the London Hoſpitals:--not a ſingle exception, I believe, where a diſappointment of fortune did not confine more than the ſtatutes or mode. After thus ſeeking knowledge for ſome years more, at the expiration of the ſixth, they may take the degree of Batchelor in Phyſic, but cannot even then be licenſed to take the care of LIVES till two or three years after; nor can they be Doctors till at leaſt eleven years are expired. For the former of theſe degrees they publicly defend one Theſis; and for the ſecond two. Theſe are the medical confinements at Engliſh Univerſities, whoſe praiſe the reader may gather even from our author himſelf, "*The* "*ancient Greeks*," ſays he, "*were ſo perfectly ſenſible of the* "*great difficulty of attaining a competent knowledge in Medi-* "*cine, that a Phyſician was obliged to ſpend the greateſt part* "*of his life in ſtudy and experiment before he was allowed to* "*practiſe. Let any one conſult Boerhaave's method of ſtudy-* "*ing Phyſic, and he will find that almoſt every branch of learning* "*was thought by that great man to conſtitute a part of a Phyſi-* "*cian's erudition.*† Bleſs us! *every branch of learning! Eru-* "*dition* too, mentioned by a Licentiate without diſreſpect!

But

† Animadverſions, page 23.

But our author is not *here* railing at Engliſh Profeſſors, and Engliſh Graduates who have *erudition*, but at Apothecaries, whom he ſuppoſes to want it, and many of whom, he perhaps knows, have attended, or ſay they have attended, *clinical lectures* at Edinburgh, or elſewhere.

Ibid. "*The moſt deſirable Univerſity is, therefore, that where* "*moſt knowledge can be acquired.*"

Certainly,--if ſuch be in our own country. If not, as the Engliſh Univerſities grant not degrees till after a number of years have been allowed, and ſufficient for importing that knowledge, the ſtudents ought as Engliſhmen to take their honours and their right of practice in England,--if England is to be the ſcene of it. I wiſh our author had told us "*where moſt knowledge is to be acquired*": becauſe I am humbly of opinion, that where there is no great difference of expence or time, the reputation of ſuch places depends *ſomewhat* on the ability of the Profeſſors:--and becauſe I ſuſpect from our author's acquired fortune, and from not ſuſpecting him of having imitated the ancient Greeks, that the Univerſity which he honoured with his preſence, has been many years in ſomewhat leſs repute.

Page 7. "*If medical knowledge were known to flouriſh even* "*in China, a Britiſh ſubject educated in ſuch univerſity ought* "*to meet every poſſible encouragement on his return.*"--"*True* "*patriotiſm will conſider the end rather than the means.*"

A Chineſe Doctor, there is no doubt, *would* meet with this encouragement, eſpeeially if he wore the Chineſe dreſs, and was properly furniſhed with the *grimace* and *complacency*, which

which have been found ſo uſeful, and which are among the "*eſſentials not taught at all*" in Engliſh univerſities. For "*the conduct of the good people of England is no argument in* "*favour of medical knowledge, becauſe it is impoſſible for them* "*to judge of* his *ſkill unleſs they themſelves were Phyſicians.*" † Our author's evidence is proof enough--experto crede--theſe good people have "*rendered* HIS *fortune conſiderable.*" *--It is to be hoped, however, that none of theſe *good people of England*, whoſe underſtandings are ſo egregiouſly ridiculed, are members in the parliament to which his Animadverſions are addreſſed.

A Chineſe Doctor ought, in truth, to have encouragement,--provided he is, like our author's inhabitant of Saturn, "*in-* "*finitely more enlightened,*" than his brethren, and provided he could not have had knowledge from thence conſiſtent with his education here: but not ſo, if an unbecoming diſregard to his country, or the ſpirit of *Jacobitiſm* were the cauſe of his peregrination--not ſo, if he was infinitely *leſs* knowing, and infinitely *leſs* enlightened:--for this one reaſon, that patriotiſm conſiders not merely the end, but *both* the means and the end: and if the health of the people is as ſecure by patriotic means, or more ſo, ſuch are the means to be adopted by Engliſh patriots.

Ibid. "*How it happens that theſe ſeminaries are incapable* "*of affording a ſufficient medical education, &c. for it were* "*enough to have proved the fact,*" &c.

Though the fact has *not* been proved, yet I will grant, they are incapable of affording a *ſufficient* medical education: becauſe

† Animadverſions, page 18.

* Ibid, page 29.

becauſe no Univerſity can--though clinical lectures were read there by our author, and however "*ſhining* his *abilities*"--unleſs he was *inſpired* with infallibility. The Univerſities, though eſtabliſhed "*when knowledge was at a low ebb*," ſuppoſe the impoſſibility; and therefore encourage the acquiſition of knowledge from every quarter.

Ib. page 7 and 8. "*The fixed Salaries of the Profeſſors is "the chief obſtacle---the preſent flouriſhing ſtate of thoſe Uni-"verſities, where the emolument of Profeſſors depends ſolely on "the number of pupils, is a proof*, &c."

How eaſy it is to be very florid and ſagacious, when falſe facts are aſſumed or aſſerted! In "*clinical lectures*," and "*illuſtrating theory by practical obſervation*," it is hoped our author is more cautious and leſs deciſive. Now at Cambridge the Regius Profeſſor of Phyſic, has, it is true, the enormous ſum of forty pounds per annum; and if our author can find the other Medical Profeſſors there any fixed ſtipend at all, they will be much obliged to him. I may, I think, venture to aſſign another cauſe, more ſuited to Cambridge Logic, becauſe not founded on falſe facts aſſumed as true; viz. The expence of money and time. The effect of this cauſe, a neglect of the Engliſh univerſities, is augmented by the want of power, or inactivity of the College of Phyſicians. In this age of ſoftneſs, when magiſtrates can connive at inſurrections,--can ſoothe, or give largeſſes to rioters,--and that even the ſpirit of an *Harley* cannot rouſe them to the incivility of executing the laws of civil policy--I wonder leſs at the mildneſs and gentleneſs of the College, which, like

other corporations, consists of various individuals, of various constitutions and sensations. Many of them are so fond of quiet, that they are apt to put off any exertion of authority, not practised daily, to their successors in office. Such men are but too apt to fear, that "*the complexion of the times*" may make such exertion improper, as they may be thought monopolizing, inquisitorial, or cruel; and are less apt to see the general good, when terrified on the one hand by ignorant clamour, and softened to pity for a *few* individuals on the other. Hence they have suffered not only many Doctors, who, tho' they may have attended *clinical lectures* in some university, have not spent *many* years in study and experiment, much less *the greatest part of their lives*,--to practise in the metropolis; but a swarm of Doctors, who never attended at any University at all.

In short, they have in truth suffered---pudet hæc dici potuisse---"*they have suffered consummate ignorance and quackery* "*to ride in state coaches triumphant through the streets, to the* "*eternal reproach of that body corporate.*" What Scotch, or what English trader would not be captivated with this glitter of triumphant Prosperity? Would not such a one think Physic a very gainful trade? Would he not, hearing too of nothing from this swarm but what it is their interest to proclaim, viz. "*the insufficiency of* "*English universities,*"--Would he not, in conformity to commercial Wisdom, make his son a Doctor at the least expence of money, and chuse he should make his trade profitable seven or eight years at least earlier? His son's fortune might

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be rendered conſiderable by ſo many years the ſooner, and there would always be reaſon to hope, that ſome few of this formidable body might ſo far ingratiate themſelves with Nobles and Senators, that a new act of parliament might lift his ſon to the honor of preſiding over the medical department. Is it then a wonder, that foreign univerſities are more flouriſhing by the number of medical pupils, than Oxford, Cambridge, or Dublin, whoſe ſons are debarred from profit ſo much longer?

Page 8. "*Nothing but a total Reformation can ſave them*: "(the Univerſities:) *before long, the Univerſities themſelves* "*will ſolicit the attempt.*"

I hope they will not. I hope there are no Gentlemen in any of them, ſo little attentive to the public health, nor ſo much to their own emolument, from a greater number of pupils, as to think of reforming them by giving degrees *earlier*. Whenever they are reformed after the model of *foreign* or *Scotch* univerſities, I will give my vote, (if I ſhould then have one) that our author, and all his "*eminent perſonages*," and all the pupils, *now in high eminence*, inſtructed at the Univerſity of *St. Mary Axe*, * be admitted Fellows of

* See the Advertiſements, "To the Ingenious unemployed"---"To Gentlemen with only a ſmall "Portion of Claſſical Learning," &c. in public papers for ſeveral years paſt. Of one of them take this abbreviated ſpecimen:—"Whereas it is the fate of many perſons to be poſſeſſed of ſlender fortunes, "who for want of being brought up to buſineſs, find themſelves confined to live in a different manner "to what they could deſire, &c a Phyſician of eminence, &c. qualifies the *Perſon* to be able to conſult "with the beſt Phyſicians, &c. and at the expiration of the time provides *them* with a *diploma, which* "*entitles them to act in any part of the world.*

"☞ *Latin Conſultations have not been uſed many years.*

"Any perſon, &c. will be informed of ſeveral *now in high eminence*, inſtructed, &c. in the ſame manner, &c." *Public Advertiſer, July* 11, 1757.

of the College of Phyſicians, in preference to any of Oxford, Cambridge, or Dublin. More and larger ſtipends for Profeſſors,--or more Fellowſhips in every College, appropriated to the ſtudents in phyſic: (if that ſeems better:) together with a greater weight added to the interdiction of the College of Phyſicians, and more reſolution in the officers of it, are all theſe univerſities want,--not an alteration in their ſtatutes.

Our author now comes to the College of Phyſicians; of whoſe *right* to prefer Engliſh univerſities I pretend not to judge, but leave it to be determined, if it has not yet been done ſufficiently, by the Courts of Law.

Ibid. page 9. "*The Royal Society, the Academy of Sci-*
"*ences, &c. know no ſuch diſtinctions*, &c."

What they do, relates no more to a College of Phyſicians, inſtituted to examine the qualifications of thoſe who take charge of the lives of the King's ſubjects, than to a Court of Aldermen. Had he told us what the *Faculté de Medecine* at Paris do, it would have been to ſome purpoſe; but not the purpoſe of our author. Nor is his drawing of a planetary inhabitant more ſo, becauſe copied from an ideal original, exiſting only in the brain of our Licenciate, and very unlike the reality. He may fancy himſelf, "*infinitely more learn-*
"*ed, and infinitely more enlightened than any earthly inhabi-*
tant:"--he may fancy that there are "*many Licenciates who*
"*poſſeſs learning in a more eminent degree than* ANY *of thoſe*
"*by whom they are examined*,"†--and that he is himſelf one of the number: But Oxonians, Cantabs, and Dublinians, are

† Animadverſions, page 11.

are not ſo credulous as thoſe "*good people of England*," by whom "*his fortune is rendered conſiderable.*" The latter he has doubtleſs perſuaded that he is one of "*the moſt eminent* "*perſonages in the practice of medicine*," although "*excluded* "*from the honours intended for men of ſhining abilities*,"*--and he has thanked them moſt gracefully for their credulity: but the former are mere infidels, till they have irreſiſtable demonſtration.

Page 12. "*Have they not permitted hundreds of Phyſicians* "*to practiſe without licence all over the Kingdom?*"--and (he might have added,) in the metropolis alſo?---"*Have they not* "*ſuffered profeſſed quacks to practiſe without moleſtation? they* "*have ſuffered conſummate ignorance and quackery to ride in* "*ſtate coaches triumphant thro' the ſtreets*," &c.

They have--But let me aſk, have not theſe quacks perſuaded the "*good People of England*" that they poſſeſs practical knowledge not taught to men of *erudition* at Engliſh univerſities? Would not *the good people of England* join the quacks and our author in calling an interdiction (as he does an examination) arrogant, monopolizing, inquiſitorial?

There is ſome reaſon to believe the power of the College is not what it ought to be. Their penalty of five pounds per month, at the time of their charter (perhaps an heavier penalty than twenty-five now) made their interdiction reſpectable, and even formidable to offenders:--but is at preſent trifling to a man who is ſaid to receive 30l. per week from one ſhop at the weſt end of the town only--when there are

 ſo

* Animadverſions, page 8, 9.

ſo many more ſhops in the metropolis, the kingdom, and the colonies. It is to be lamented therefore, that the penalty for illegal practice is not ten times five.

As to impriſonment,--would it ſuit "the complexion of "the times"? Do not mountebanks, and ſuch like vagrant practiſers impoſe upon *the good people of England* unmoleſted (may I not ſay *tolerated?*) by the civil magiſtrates in all parts of the kingdom, and the environs even of London itſelf? If it be ſaid, this neglect of the officers of Police does not excuſe the College, whoſe more immediate duty it is to watch over the health of the King's ſubjects, and to puniſh every treſpaſſer upon that health;--I muſt be forced to own it. If then the power of the college be ſufficient to prevent this quackery, as I neither poſſeſs the mobbiſh reſtiveneſs which impels our Licenciate to call the executors of an Act of Parliament *Inquiſitors*, nor ſo much indolence as to ſeek for quiet by connivance at public miſchief; I wiſh he had employed his whole pamphlet on no other ſubject than this their cautious tameneſs, and that he had poſſeſſed the thunder of DEMOSTHENES: for ſurely the language of no other could expreſs with ſufficient force their diſgraceful conduct.

Our author next beſtows about a dozen pages on Apothecaries who viſit and direct medicines.

Page 17. "*If a Phyſician be intruded upon him* (the Apothecary) "*it is always in his power to diſappoint his* (the Phyſician's) "*expectation, by omitting or ſubſtituting one* "*ingredient for another: this were indeed conſummate vil-* "*lainy, but there are raſcals,*" &c.

Raſcals

Rascals capable of this consummate villainy there certainly are, and I should have been very much concerned for the honor of the College, had it been made appear that their Censors have a power to punish them: as undoubted proofs of this villainy may be produced, and perhaps even within the bills of mortality. Certainly no punishment can be too severe, and I wish our author had pointed out how it might be obtained. If the College Censors have not this power, it is high time they had.

Page 24. "*This neglect to confine Apothecaries within their* "*sphere, is the more unpardonable, as the means are obvious--* "*the most effectual would be not to suffer any of* THEIR *prescrip-* "*tions to be made up by a visiting Apothecary.*"

This is a proposal so very prudent, that it is hoped our author will prevail upon his brethren the Licentiates, to set the College an example so disinterested. This would shame the Fellows most amazingly, and confine Apothecaries to their counters, where he so earnestly wishes them. If he cannot prevail so far, he may at least set the example himself,-- especially now *his fortune is rendered considerable*: and more especially, since it is highly improbable that any Apothecary, "in whose power it generally is to introduce his favoured "Physician into the families he attends" * was ever permitted, by a spirit so exalted, to assist in rendering it so. But in the vehemence of his zeal, to prevent Apothecaries practising, has he not forgot, what was observed above, that many of them talk of having attended *clinical lectures?* Has he not forgot, that some of them are Doctors, who have given proof

* Animadversions, page 17.

proof of ability, at leaſt not inferior to his own? and that all of them may be Doctors in a few months, by ſignifying their inclinations to *H. W--s*, † M. D. and be *provided with a diploma, entitling them to act in any part of the world?* Has he not forgot that ſome of them are Licenciates?--but perhaps not being in the Liſt of Window-breakers, he may not rank them with the "*moſt eminent perſonages in the practice* "*of medicine, tho' excluded from the honors which were cer-* "*tainly intended for men of ſhining abilities:*" and which honors if they cannot obtain by the liberal method of aſſault, they may however hope to obtain by this very liberal addreſs to the legiſlature.

Suppoſe our author's liberal language and reaſoning with Apothecaries were applied to Licenciates--"As to that con- "ſequential body of Literati § called" LICENCIATES, altho' they may ſuppoſe themſelves poſſeſſed of the moſt "ſhining "abilities"; or that they be "the moſt eminent perſonages "in the practice of Medicine," becauſe "the public has "been pleaſed to render" their "fortune conſiderable:"-- yet "the conduct of the good people of England is no ar- "gument in favour of their medical knowledge, becauſe it "is impoſſible for them to judge, unleſs they themſelves "were Phyſicians". Although many of them may boaſt of "poſſeſſing more learning than any of thoſe by whom they "are examined;" yet have not many of them been made Doctors without "ſufficient reſidence" at an univerſity,--moſt of

† A Name inſerted at length in ſome Addreſſes to the good people of England, of a later date than that recited in a preceding note.

§ Animadverſions, page 12.

of them without any residence at all? Have not some been made such by the cantonment of a regiment to which they belonged near an university in FLANDERS or in SCOTLAND,—some by a letter, without quitting their habitations? In short, have any of them, like the ancient Greeks, "spent the greatest "part of their lives in study and experiment before they prac-"tised?" If it be urged, "that many of them from their "extensive practice must necessarily have gained great ex-"perience; to this I answer, that experience without theory, "and not founded on the experience of former ages, will "produce no better qualification than that of an old nurse." * For "those who by long study, &c. have become well ac-"quainted with Physic, know it to be so extensive, &c. the "diseases so wonderfully numerous, and their species distin-"guished by such a variety of minute circumstances, that "the ablest Physician, with his experience assisted by that "of all who have gone before him, finds himself frequently "in doubt, &c. † The ancient Greeks were so sensible of "the great difficulty," &c. "Can it then be matter of sur-"prise, that" the Censors of the College, "who view the "Art of Medicine in its full extent, should behold with "indignation, a most" illiberal "set of people, audaciously complaining of insult from an examination, and *audaciously* aiming at authority "with the same confidence as if they "were possessed of all the advantages that a learned educa-"tion could supply." ‡ Since then most of them have wanted to be honoured and to be rich before they were learned,—

 since

* Animadversions, page 24. † Ibid. p. 22. ‡ Ibid. p. 23.

ſince by the confeſſion of one of this "conſequential body of "men, * Doctors without reſidence ought to be abſolutely "interdicted;" † --ſince they have reflected indecently on the laws of this country, and cannot agree among themſelves which Univerſity, *Foreign* or *Scotch* ought to be preferred;-- the college prudently affronts none by excluding the Graduates of them all from offices of authority. Suppoſe, I ſay, ſuch language were to be applied to Licenciates,--would not "this conſequential body of men be highly offended", and particularly our author, with "expreſſions ſo unreſerved?" But to return to the College.

Page 26. "*They perſecute a man whom they know to have "had a regular and expenſive education, and to whom fifty "pounds at his firſt ſetting out in life may be no inconſiderable "ſum*", &c.

How ſhould they know the regularity of a man's education, till he has been examined, unleſs it be advertiſed? As to expence, they may ſuppoſe a regular education requires ſo many fifties, that very few would ramble abroad, who could afford to have a ſufficient education; and that an enthuſiaſtic thirſt of medical knowledge is not ſo commonly the motive as the ſaving of expence and time. The mention of the expence of a Licence twice in this page and again in page 29, ſhews our author's motive. When they meet with a foreign Doctor fond of Medicine for it's own ſake, or the pleaſure of doing good only, they may, and will, I doubt not, abate ſomewhat of the price: 'till then no miſchief can happen,

* Animadverſions, page 22. † Ibid. p. 27.

happen, if they make it double the usual sum, but an encouragement of domestic education.

Our author, however, has a mind to insinuate the interested view of the College in this "exorbitant sum": forgetting that "they have permitted hundreds of physicians in "all parts of the kingdom to practise without licence, tho' "their power extends equally to all parts of the kingdom;" from whom hundreds of *exorbitant sums*, if they pleased, might be gained. * A blameable neglect this of their own interest, and a much more blameable neglect of an interest more general and more important. But "they persecute a "man," it seems, "at his first setting out in life"--Witness, ye unlicenced Doctors, almost without number, now practising daily in the capital!

Surely, if ever a Physician is examined at all, it ought to be "at his first setting out," that the LIVES of *the good people of England* may not be exposed, during many successive years, or till their credulity has rendered fifty pounds really *inconsiderable*: and of such early persecution I wish there were more examples. Pity it is, our author did not mention how soon after HIS *first setting out* he suffered persecution. Perhaps he suppressed his own example for fear of exposing the indolence of the College Officers at that time; and probably they have reason to thank him for the suppression.

Page 27. "*With regard to those who in consequence of suf-* "*ficient residence at a creditable university, &c. have obtained* "*a diploma*, AUTHORISING THEM TO PRACTISE IN ANY PART OF

"THE

* Animadversions, page 12.

"THE WORLD, *a re-examination by any College must be deemed* "*highly insulting.*"

Doubtless:--and they have the insolence to determine this *sufficient* residence to be that appointed by statutes of English universities, and then to examine the graduates of those very universities! and what is yet more insolent, re-examine those whose diplomas the Advertisement says, *entitle them to act in any part of the world!*

Page 28. "*I have wondered how the President, &c. of a* "PRIVATE *College of Physicians could possibly arrogate to them-* "*selves the unjustifiable power of calling to examination, like* "*school-boys, persons whose education they knew to be superior,*" &c.

It is verily and indeed wonderful!

Ibid. "*By what infatuation then have these fellows been led* "*to insult their equals,*" &c.

This, with a great deal more raving about insult and arrogance, superiority and equality, catechism, inquisition, &c. makes me wish I had enquired after the author, ere I had set pen to paper, lest I should have been at the trouble of remarking upon a distempered inhabitant of Moorfields, as such princely people hold every want of deference to their rank, an insult unpardonable. Can any one guess what is meant by a *private* College of Physicians? Or can it be conceived, that a man, *Mentis compos*, should forget that the Institution of the College Officers by Parliament, requires them to examine every Practitioner within the Bills of Mortality?

Page

Page 29. " *I wish I had gone to practise at the Cape of good-hope, rather than have submitted to have stoop'd so far beneath the Dignity of my Rank, as to answer their* IMPERTINENT *Questions* " &c.

This is *possible*: but perhaps there was at that time some small Doubt, whether the HOGAN-MOGANS at the *Cape* were so likely to *render a fortune considerable*, as the *good People of England.*

Page 30. " *If it should appear the College have made a practice* &c. *of obliging regular Doctors to submit to an ignominious Examinotion* &c. *if these facts be deemed Acts of Oppression, can it be doubted the Complainants wou'd not be redress'd?* "

It cannot be doubted :— IF —

Page 30, 31 " *Suppose a Doctor before the President* &c. *to be examin'd were to address them-- Gentlemen -- consistent with my own Dignity I can't, possibly submit to answer any Questions only to satisfy you of my medical Abilities, of which this Diploma in my hand, with this Thesis which I have publicly defended, are undoubted Testimonies* " &c.

Pardon me most noble Doctor :-- that *Diploma* in your hand with that Thesis are not *undoubted* Testimonies. Was I president or Censor, I shou'd doubt. Diplomas are sold---and Theses are abroad so rarely the Composition of the Person who *publicly defends* them, that the foreign Reviewers universally cite the *Theses* for Degrees, as the Works of the Professors, during whose Presidency they were defended. Thus, a Thesis entitled *a Dissertation on mineral Waters under the Presidency of* HOFFMAN, *publicly defended by A. B.* wou'd be supposed by ev'ry Person acquainted with these Matters to be the Work of HOFFMAN :-- unless there was a better Reason for thinking otherwise, than *A. B's.* publicly defending it.

Page 31, 32. " *Surely I need not inform you that having obtain'd the Degree of Doctor-- I am in Possession of the highest Honour that Physic can confer* &c. *They wou'd call him an impertinent fellow* " &c. &c.

And

And every impartial Perſon wou'd deem the Appellation juſt. Suppoſe a Coal-heaver– ſtart not gentle Reader !-- Suppoſe a Coal-heaver before the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen to be examin'd were to addreſs them in the ſame or ſimilar Language—" *Gentlemen, I have obey'd your* " *Summons notwithſtanding the ungenteel Manner in which it was expreſs'd.*" *" *Surely I need not inform you that being*" a free-born Engliſhman " *I am in* " *poſſeſſion of the higheſt Honour that* " Birth " *can confer : there can be no* " *reaſon then for obliging me to ſubmit to any Examination, it being a known* " *Maxim, that* ALL *Examinations are made with an Intention of advancing* " *the Perſon Examined*" &c. &c. † Shall I carry this Repreſentation farther ? I cannot— nor will I Inquire about his exotic Maxim : as an advancement (*au Gibet*) is ſometimes the Conſequence, tho' not the Intention of ALL Examinations, even by *Engliſh* Magiſtrates. The Reader has doubtleſs been already hurt as much as my ſelf :-- and yet when the *Hauteur* and Inſolence of the Animadverter's Suppoſitions here and page 9 are conſider'd ;—when he forgets that the preſident and Cenſors are Magiſtrates entruſted with the Execution of Engliſh Laws,—I hope to be pardonable. Perhaps I even ought not to be " *ſorry for the Opportunity of vindicat-* " *ing the honour of ſo reſpectable a Body of Men againſt the Outrages of im-* " *proper*" ‡ and ungentlemanly PRIDE, and may deſire my Readers " *not to let this be condemn'd as too ludicrous a Repreſentation. The Colouring* " *tho' ſomewhat ſtrong, is yet real, and a pertinent Illuſtration of the Argu-* " *ments advanc'd to prove* " that the Complaint of our Licentiate " *againſt* " *the London College, is built on* no other *Baſis,* " § than his own ridiculous VANITY.

Page 33. " *Examinations are ineffectual becauſe the Queſtions are generally* " *ſuch as any young Student may eaſily anſwer* &c."

ευρηκα !—Very ill indeed was our Author us'd by this " *high Court of* " *Inquiſition* when *equal in Rank to the higheſt of his Inquiſitors !* "

Had

* Animad. p. 30. † Ibid. p. 31. ‡ Ibid. § Ibid. p. 9, 10.

Had they not designedly, and maliciously, asked Questions so easily answer'd, he had appear'd a Prodigy of a Doctor, and they must long ago have been forc'd to intreat his doing *them* the Honour to accept the President's Chair. Hinc illœ Lachrymœ!— hence the Recollection of that ignominious Examination may well excite Blushes, and even Raving! Learn hence, ye present and future Censors, not to suppose a *Foreign* Graduate can be in Awe, or Confusion at the Solemnity of your Presence,— and do not hereafter, for fear of extinguishing the Lustre of *shining Abilities*, examine with a Candour so mortifying to foreign Education! Beware lest some Theses and Diplomas shou'd travel to the *Cape* to your eternal Mortification and Reproach!

Page 34. "*Let him continue a Licentiate* 4 *Years— his fees fix'd at half* "*price, and engag'd not to refuse attending on such moderate Terms— this* "*wou'd give Opportunity of Practice to young Physicians: The* 4 *years* "*expir'd, let him be a fellow*" This plan of our Author seems a tacit Confession that *Diplomas* and *Theses publicly defended* are not *undoubted* Testimonies of sufficient medical Knowledge; else why this 4 years Experience upon the lower Class of People? It becomes not a Cantab to dictate to the College: but I may with our Authors Leave, propose my Opinion *viz.* that it may be as proper to summon every Doctor even *at his first setting out*, to Examination. If he appears not to have sufficient Knowledge, oblige him to spend 4 years in Attendance and Observation at one of the London Hospitals— or more if his Residence has not been *sufficient*, and at a reputable University. Then let him be examin'd again, (not by proposing *Questions easily answer'd*) and if he appears to have apply'd diligently, licenced: paying the fees, (especially if more enlighten'd than his earthly Brethren,) when the Sum is less considerable to him. This woul'd prevent People rambling abroad to be Doctors before they are of Age, and to have the privilege of making a fortune, before they

deserve

deſerve it: This would make the Engliſh Univerſities flouriſh, more than a Reformation of Statutes, ſo much prated of, and ſo little neceſſary.

Page 35. *The health of the People is ſo far from being beneath the conſideration of Legiſlature*" &c.

True: and therefore the Legiſlature has delegated certain Powers to the Officers of the College, for the Preſervation of the Public Health. If theſe Powers are ſufficient, I ſhall be ſorry for having attempted to take off the Weight of the Animadverters Severity: if they are *not*, it is to be hop'd the Legiſlature will ſtrengthen or enlarge them.

Page 35, 36 "*I am not actuated by Reſentment againſt any particular Fellow*" nor is the Remarker againſt any particular Licenciate: "*I reſpect many of them for their Learning and medical Abilities*;" how condeſcending! I will not be outdone— I reſpect ſome Licenciates who have even been Apothecaries: "*but I condemn their Inſtitution as illiberal and oppreſſive*:" Very juſtly no doubt — the eaſy Queſtions of theſe Inquiſitors have made the Author's Fortune, but not the Author PRESIDENT of the INQUISITION: "*and I blame their neglect of the moſt ſalutary of their Laws.*" Do ſo with all my Heart: I am ready to join the Outcry: but not to break their Windows — eſpecially for *not* neglecting. They, you ſay, have been "*of late, particularly attentive to young Phyſicions.*"* Better late than never: Who knows but their Zeal may gather Strength as it proceeds, and extend to ev'ry Impediment of the public Health! I am rather inclin'd to congratulate them on having began to ſhake off their lethargic Indolence: but if indiſcriminate Abuſe by ſhewing them that their habitual meekneſs, will not ſecure their quiet, be a more effectual means of rouzing them to hazard a little of that Quiet, by a more vigorous Exertion of what Power they have; I care not how much our Authors Abilities ſhine in abuſing them.

Page 35. "*Patriotiſm is a word ſo often proſtituted* &c. *nevertheleſs if it appears from my Age and Situation, that I cannot have any other End in View*" &c.

If

* Anim. p. 12.

If this writer, whom I do not know, chose his Age, his Situation, and his Motives should not be mistaken, why not prefix his Name to his *Information*? The good of his Country is, to be sure, very much affected by the most insulting Examination, and in his Exclusion from the president's Office. Perhaps he may think his Motive patriotic—but perhaps he may mistake his Motive, for more Reasons than his Age. If to rail at the Universities of his own Country, which he has misrepresented, as confining their *Students in physic* to a certain Mode, and discouraging the search of Knowledge in other places—the very contrary of which is the truth;—if to proclaim the foreign Graduates superior to ANY of his own Country, tho' the latter have generally studied abroad as long as himself, join'd to their Education here;—if to represent the College Officers as insulting himself and Brethren by an Examination, to which they call the Graduates of their own Country,—and which Examination is a Security against Insufficiency, super-added to the great Number of preparatory Years;—if to stigmatize them as illiberal, oppressive and inquisitorial, for an Examination which is authoriz'd by repeated Acts of Parliament,—when their principal fault is being too candid, and too cautious of maintaining their just Rights;—if this be Patriotism;—then is our Author's Information liberal and pertinent;—then is our Author a Patriot, and the Writer of these Remarks most egregiously deceiv'd.

H

F I N I S.